

Souhegan WMPAAC Annual Report November 2007

Presented to His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch
NH Senate President, Sylvia Larsen
Speaker of the NH House of Representatives, Terie Norelli
Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Thomas S. Burack
and the State Library

November 1, 2007

by the

Souhegan River Water Management Planning Area Advisory Committee

In compliance with Laws of 2002, Chapter 278, the Souhegan River Water Management Area Advisory Committee is pleased to submit this annual report of the committee's findings and activities for 2007. This law defines the two committees for each river under the pilot program to advise the Instream Flow process—the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Water Management Area Advisory Committee (WMPAAC). According to Chapter 278, "Each Water Management Planning Area Advisory Committee shall make an interim report regarding its progress and findings on or before November 1 of each year of their existence to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, and the State Library."

NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) maintains a website for the Souhegan WMPAAC at www.des.nh.gov/rivers/instream/souhegan.asp?link=meetings&meet=wmpa. The website contains the minutes, agendas, and copies of all presentations and documents distributed at the WMPAAC meetings. UNH maintains a Souhegan Instream Flow Project website at www.unh.edu/erg/souhegan/.

A public hearing was held March 21, 2007 to present the results of the Souhegan Protected Instream Flow Study. The hearing was held by the Department of Environmental Services jointly with the NH Senate Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee and the Senate Wildlife, Fish and Game Committee (replacing the Senate Environment Committee); and the NH House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee and supported by the Souhegan WMPAAC. The conceptual framework of the Instream Flow Study based on Poff's Natural Flow Paradigm is that protection of the timing, duration, frequency, magnitude, and rate of change of flows is necessary to protect aquatic habitat. Therefore, the protected instream flows were described using more than just values of flow magnitude. Protected flows were described for a six periods during the year reflecting biologically significant times. They were described within the natural variations in magnitude, frequency and duration of flows that occur during each period. The protected instream flow descriptions include allowable and catastrophic durations for three flow magnitudes. Each flow magnitude occurs at different frequencies: 1) common flows, 2) low flows expected on a frequency of once in two to three years, and 3) low flows expected once in ten years. Documentation of the study results is in the report titled **Souhegan River Protected Instream Flow Report** and dated October 1, 2007. The report can be found at www.des.nh.gov/rivers/instream/souhegan/study.html.

The Souhegan WMPAAC met October 16, 2007 to begin the Water Management Plan. The Water Management Plan describes the management activities to be conducted by Affected Dam Owners and Affected Water Users to maintain the protected flows identified in the Souhegan River Protected Instream Flow Report. These management activities will be implemented when stream flows fall below the protected flow magnitudes for longer than the allowable and catastrophic durations. Oversight and coordination of the development of the Water Management Plan is the

chief responsibility of the WMPAAC. The management alternatives will be developed with the Affected Dam Owners and the Affected Water Users over the next year. The cost of alternatives will be part of the decision make process used by the Affected Dam Owners, Affected Water Users and DES to choose the most effective management alternatives. The Water Management Plan that describes the selected alternatives will go in detail before the public at a public hearing later this year. DES is developing a webpage that will present the protected instream flow conditions relative to stream flow in real time. The web page will make use of USGS stream gage data to compare current conditions to the protected flow magnitudes and durations during all periods of the year.

The WMPAAC will evaluate the sub-plans proposed for each Affected Water User and Affected Dam Owner. The committee will review the alternatives selected by the affected parties and DES and presented in the draft Water Management Plan to ensure all the affected parties have levels of effort appropriate to their water needs and business conditions in meeting the protected flows. The draft Water Management Plan will go before a public hearing for review and comment before adoption.

Committee Changes

There were no changes in membership from the previous year.

**SOUHEGAN RIVER WATER MANGEMENT PLANNING AREA ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (WMPAAC)**

<p>Mr. Spencer C. Brookes II Committee member Souhegan LAC 56 Burns Hill Rd. Wilton, NH 03086 (603) 654-6771 sbrookes@tds.net</p> <p>Rep. D.L. Chris Christensen NH State House of Representatives 27 Greatstone Drive Merrimack, NH 03054-2342 (603) 424-2542 (800) 333-2279 repchristensen@adelphia.net</p> <p>Mr. Jay Chrystal c/o ChemServe Laboratories 317 Elm Street Milford, NH 03053 (603) 673-5440 jay@chemservelab.com</p> <p>Mr. Peter de Bruyn Kops (Acting Chair) 427-3 Amherst St. #341 Nashua, NH 03063 (603) 673-3551 water@acugen.com</p> <p>Mr. Stephen J. Densberger Executive Vice President Pennichuck Water Works P.O. Box 448 4 Water St. Nashua, NH 03061 (603) 882-5191 steve.densberger@pennichuck.com</p> <p>Mr. Nelson R. Disco (Chair) Chairman, Merrimack Planning Board 42 Wilson Hill Rd. Merrimack, NH 03054 (603) 424-3120 ndisco@compuserve.com</p>	<p>Ms. Diane Fitzpatrick Committee member Souhegan River LAC 113 Lovejoy Rd. Milford, NH 03055 (603) 672-6016 diane-nh@earthlink.net</p> <p>Mr. F. Vincent Gerbino Quality Control Manager and Compliance Officer Monadnock Mountain Spring Water Co. 577 Greenfield Rd. Francestown, NH 03043 (603) 547-8300 monadnock3@tellink.net or Monadnock Mountain Spring Water P.O. Box 518 Wilton, NH 03086 (603) 654-2728 Ext. 222</p> <p>Mr. Gordon Leedy Vice Chair Amherst Planning Board 7 North Meadow Rd. Amherst, NH 03031 (603) 644-0888 gleedy@vhb.com</p> <p>Mr. Lawrence R. Major Jr. Environmental Health and Safety Officer Pike Industries 3 Eastgate Park Rd. Belmont, NH 03220 (603) 527-5182 lmajor@pikeindustries.com</p> <p>Mr. George May Chairman Souhegan River LAC 157 Naticook Rd. Merrimack, NH 03054 (603) 883-3409 georgemay@msn.com</p>
--	--

<p>Mr. Timothy D. O'Connell 483 Federal Hill Rd. Milford, NH 03055 (603) 673-2963 tocnoc@aol.com</p> <p>Ms. Nancy Rose Redling President Pratt Pond Association 190 Lower Pratt Pond Rd. New Ipswich, NH 03071-3108 (603) 878-4672 nancy@nroseassoc.com</p> <p>Senator Sheila Roberge NH Senate 83 Olde Lantern Road Bedford, NH 03110-4816 (603) 472-8391 sheila.roberge@leg.state.nh.us</p>	<p>Mr. William F. Ruoff Director Milford Public Works 289 South St. Milford, NH 03055 (603) 673-1662 bruoff@milford.nh.gov</p> <p>Angela Vincent Senior Regional Planner 115 Main Street, PO Box 847 Nashua, NH 03061 603-883-0366, x15 angiev@nashuarpc.org</p> <p>Mr. Robin Warren Amherst Country Club 69 Walnut Hill Rd. Amherst, NH 03031 (603) 673-1923 robinwar@aol.com</p>
---	---

Contact: C. Wayne Ives, P.G., Hydrogeologist
Instream Flow Specialist
Watershed Management Bureau
NH Department of Environmental Services
PO Box 95 - 29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302-0095
Telephone (603)-271-3548
Fax (603)-271-7894
Email Wayne.Ives@des.nh.gov
www.des.nh.gov/rivers/instream/